



TO: **W-2 Agencies**
RSS-funded Agencies
RSS Set-Aside-funded Agencies
RMS-funded Agencies

FROM: Bojana Zorić Martinez, Director
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BRP/BWF OPERATIONS MEMO

No: **BRP 22-04**
BWF 22-16
DATE: **07/29/2022**

RCA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RMA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	RHP	<input type="checkbox"/>
RSS	<input type="checkbox"/>	RSI	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYM	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
ASA	<input type="checkbox"/>	ReMHI	<input type="checkbox"/>	WFTCP	<input type="checkbox"/>		
W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**SUBJECT: *Expansion of the Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance
Maximum Eligibility Period from Eight to Twelve Months***

CROSS REFERENCE: [45 CFR § 400.43](#)
[45 CFR § 400.211](#)
[BRP Operations Memo \(OM\) 21-04](#)
[BWF Operations Memo \(OM\) 21-26](#)
[ORR Dear Colleague Letter 22-12](#)
[ORR Policy Letter 16-01](#)
[Status and Documentation Requirements for the ORR Refugee
Resettlement Program](#)
[TANF-ACF-PI-2021-06](#)
[W-2 Policy Manual Section 18.2.4.2](#)
[W-2 Policy Manual Section 18.3.4.2](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE: *MARCH 28, 2022*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to announce the expansion of the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Eligibility Period from eight months to 12 months for ORR-eligible populations whose date of eligibility for ORR benefits is on or after October 1, 2021.

BACKGROUND

As outlined in [ORR Dear Colleague Letter 22-12](#), the eligibility period for RCA and RMA has been expanded from up to eight months to up to 12 months for ORR-eligible populations whose date of eligibility for ORR benefits is on or after October 1, 2021.

Through the Refugee Act of 1980, Congress authorized cash and medical assistance up to 36 months, yet by fiscal year (FY) 1992, mainly due to insufficient appropriations, ORR had reduced eligibility period to eight months. For 30 years, RCA and RMA eligibility period remained eight months for ORR eligible populations.

The expansion of the eligibility period will impact refugees who are not eligible for TANF or Medicaid. While most RCA clients will gain employment as soon as possible increasing the RCA and RMA eligibility period will enable certain ORR-eligible populations to have additional time in which to address English language proficiency, receive employment training, and secure employment.

POLICY***Current Policy:***

All ORR eligible populations with eligibility dates of 09/30/2021 or before will continue to be eligible for up to eight months of RCA and RMA.

New Policy:

Pursuant to [45 CFR § 400.211](#), the ORR Director is authorized to determine the eligibility period for RCA and RMA by publishing a final notice in the Federal Register. A Federal Register Notice announcing the increase in the RCA and RMA eligibility period from eight months to 12 was published on March 28, 2022. All ORR eligible populations with eligibility dates of 10/01/2021 and after may be eligible for this 12-month expansion if they meet all other eligibility criteria. As in the previous policy, the RCA/RMA eligibility is for a maximum of 12 months after an individual's initial start date. Individual(s) may exit and be re-enrolled into either program until they exhaust their 12 months of eligibility in the United States.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

No other eligibility criteria will be changed with the implementation of this RCA/RMA expansion. Please refer to previous guidance for other eligibility criteria of RCA and RMA.

REPORTING

Reporting requirements for both RCA and RMA will remain the same.

AGENCY ACTION

W-2 Agencies, partners, and staff should be made aware of these changes when processing eligible populations for RCA and RMA applications.

All related Department of Children and Families (DCF) documentation should reflect this policy change as of March 28, 2022. RCA and RMA related application documents, including those that are translated into ORR population languages, will be updated with correct translations after this memo is released. Please be aware that the new 12-month expansion covers these documents during the time that these documents are being updated.

If agency RCA and RMA documentation or W-2 documentation includes any eight-month eligibility specification, they should be updated to reflect the most recent change to 12 months following the 10/01/2021 eligibility date.

TRAINING

No additional training will be required; agencies are encouraged to reach out to their DCF contacts in the Bureau of Refugee Programs (BRP) for guidance.

CONTACTS

Questions regarding this memo should be directed to:

Rebekah Davis (Program Policy Analyst-Advanced): rebekah.davis@wisconsin.gov

Ben York (Refugee Programs Section Manager): benjamin.york@wisconsin.gov

ATTACHMENTS

Please reference the policy attachment below for changes to the W-2 Manual, which will be updated by August 8, 2022.

[Dear Colleague Letter 22-12](#)

[Status and Documentation Requirements for the ORR Refugee Resettlement Program](#)

[W-2 Policy Manual Chapter 18](#)